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KINGSBRIDGE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1951

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Kingsbridge Rural District Council

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL,

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Telephone : Kingsbridge 2246-47.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.

Telephone : Kingsbridge 2004.

CLERK TO M.O.H.

Miss J. Palk.

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SANITARY INSPECTORS,

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Telephone : Kingsbridge 2246-47.

KINGSBRIDGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1951.

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. W. C. Smales, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health: Dr. W. H. Cowper, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.

Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector: Mr. N. Harris, A.I.A.S., C.R.S.I.

Second Sanitary Inspector: Mr. D. J. Cole, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report on the health of the district for the year 1951.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area—70,818 acres.

Population—11,340.

Number of Inhabited Houses at the end of 1951, according to the Rate Book—3,766.

Number of Unoccupied Houses—81.

Rateable Value—£63,623.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£260. 6s. 5d.

The Area is mainly an agricultural one, although on the coastline many of the inhabitants are employed in sea-faring pursuits.

There is an annual influx of visitors during the holiday season over the whole of the district, to which they are attracted by the favourable climate and the beauty of the surroundings.

The conditions of employment and environs are conducive to health and longevity.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS :

	Total.	Males.	Females.	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
Legitimate	172	89	83	16.14
Illegitimate	8	5	3	
	180	94	86	

				Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)
STILL BIRTHS :	3	1	2	16.39

				Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population.
DEATHS :	159	85	74	14.02

Deaths as recorded under heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List :

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.
No. 30 Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	16.67
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	17.38
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 4 weeks of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	16.67
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	17.38
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil

CAUSES OF DEATH:

		M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	—	2
2.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
3.	Syphilitic Disease	—	—
4.	Diphtheria	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	2	—
6.	Meningoccal Infections	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8.	Measles	—	—
9.	Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	7	1
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	1	—
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	2
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	1
14.	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	13	9
15.	Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—
16.	Diabetes	1	1
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	7	11
18.	Coronary Disease, Angina	7	4
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	1
20.	Other Heart Disease	13	13
21.	Other Circulatory Disease	2	2
22.	Influenza	3	5
23.	Pneumonia	4	4
24.	Bronchitis	3	—
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—
26.	Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	—
27.	Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—
28.	Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
31.	Congenital Malformations	2	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	8	16
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	—
34.	All other Accidents	1	—
35.	Suicide	2	—
36.	Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
		85	74

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) AND TOTAL DEATHS DURING THE YEAR, 1951

	AGE PERIODS (NOTIFICATIONS)															AGE PERIODS (DEATHS)												
	Und'r one year	1 2	2 3	3 4	4 5	5 10	10 15	15 20	20 35	35 45	45 65	65 and over	Total	Remov'd to Hospital	Naval and Military Cases	Und'r one Year	1 2	2 3	3 4	4 5	5 10	10 15	15 20	20 35	35 45	45 65	65 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	—	—	—	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	8	4	5	5	14	48	2	—	—	—	—	—	86	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	2	4	8	2	10	51	22	3	3	1	3	—	109	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid B	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	10	8	13	7	24	99	25	7	7	3	3	—	206	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

PAROCHIAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE FOR YEAR 1951

Disease	Aveton Gifford	Bigbury	Blackawton	Buckland-tout-Saints	Charleton	Chivelstone	Churchstow	East Allington	East Portlemouth	Kingston	Loddiswell	Malborough	Modbury	Ringmore	Sherford	Slapton	South Huish	South Milton	South Pool	Stokefleming	Stokenham	Strete	Thurlestone	West Alvington	Woodleigh	Totals
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	6
Whooping Cough	—	—	10	—	2	—	2	—	1	—	21	4	2	—	3	—	7	—	1	6	15	—	9	1	2	86
Measles	17	16	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	23	2	—	1	—	3	—	2	12	18	2	1	3	109
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Paratyphoid B	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
	17	16	15	—	3	—	2	—	1	1	23	8	25	2	3	1	7	3	2	10	27	18	13	3	6	206

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of Plympton Rural District, Kingsbridge Urban District, Salcombe Urban District, Kingsbridge and Salcombe Port Sanitary Authority, and Medical Officer to the South Devon Water Board.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).

One whole-time Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector.

One whole-time Sanitary Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.—The Public Health Laboratory Service provide a service for the investigation of communicable disease and the examination of milk, water supplies, ice cream and foodstuffs, etc. I am grateful for their assistance and willing co-operation at all times.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION are carried out through the general practitioner service or at school clinics and infant welfare centres by the County Council through the County Health Services. Supplies of Diphtheria antigen can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, 45, St. David's Hill, Exeter, and vaccine lymph from the Public Health Laboratory Service, 7, Dix's Field, Exeter.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.—District Nurses and Midwives (Devon County Council). There are seven District Nurses/Midwives working in the area, including one County Staff Sister in charge of the group. Supervision is carried out by the County Nursing Officers. All Nurses in the area are qualified to administer analgesics.

One Nurse has been allocated a house by the Kingsbridge R.D.C. at Loddiswell, and the Modbury Nurse is to have a bungalow built by the Devon C.C. Unfortunately owing to the lack of a house the Nurse at East Prawle will be leaving in the very near future.

MIDWIVES.—The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council which investigates cases of Maternal Mortality and Puerperal Disease. There are seven practising midwives in the District.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.—There is a centre in Kingsbridge which is open on Wednesday afternoons.

VENEREAL DISEASES TREATMENT.—At the Venereal Disease Dept., City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter. A refund of rail or bus fare can be made in suitable cases by applying to the Medical Officer of the Centre.

Treatment is also available from a certain number of selected General Medical Practitioners specially approved for the purpose by the County Council, and Ministry of Health. There is one such practitioner at Modbury and another at Kingsbridge.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT is available through the Devon Association for Orthopaedics as In-patients at Exeter and Ivybridge; and for adults at Mount Gold Hospital, Plymouth. For Out-patients there is a clinic at Kingsbridge, and the South-West Clinic which deals with this district as well, is held at the Mutley Hall Assembly Rooms, Plymouth.

THE SOUTH HAMS COTTAGE HOSPITAL provides beds for 16 patients from Kingsbridge and the surrounding districts:

Men's Ward	6 beds
Women's Ward	6 beds
Children's Cots	2
Private Wards	2 (one bed each)

ISOLATION HOSPITAL. Cases of infectious disease are sent to the Swilly Isolation Hospital. Patients are removed by the Plymouth Ambulance Service on behalf of the Devon County Council.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

NON-INFECTIOUS CASES AND ACCIDENTS.—The Devon County Council Ambulance Service provide transport for non-infectious cases and accidents. This service is provided in accordance with Section 27 (2) of the National Health Service Act, 1946, through the agency of the voluntary organisations.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.—In Kingsbridge there is a Home Help Service operated on behalf of the County Medical Dept. by the W.V.S. Home helps are also made available in other areas on application to the Devon C.C.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1951.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
Age Periods.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	2	2	1	—	—	1	—	—
35—45 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	4	3	1	1	—	1	—	—

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948—Section 47.

REMOVAL OF PERSONS NEEDING CARE AND ATTENTION.

No action was necessary during the year under the provisions of this Act.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

SCHOOLS.—Inspections of the 19 Elementary Schools in the District are carried out by the Sanitary Inspector and by the Medical Officer of Health in cases needing further attention.

During the year 29 notices were received referring to 142 children who were excluded from school because of communicable disease or because they were contacts :—

They were as follows :

Measles	98
Whooping Cough	29
Chickenpox	12
Mumps	1
Paratyphoid B.	2
	142

WATER SUPPLY.

The Moorland Water Supply to the Rural District is supplied by the South Devon Water Board, but maintenance of supplies have been delegated temporarily to the Rural District Council.

The Eastern pipeline is nearing completion and Moorland water will soon be made available to the Parishes of Blackawton, Stoke Fleming and Strete.

Frequent analyses, both chemical and bacteriological, are made of the Moorland water. The raw water is also regularly examined. Tests for plumbo-solvency are also carried out at regular intervals.

Water Supplies to the various parishes are as follows :—

During the past year 120 samples of Moorland water were submitted for bacteriological examination. Results were as follows : Grade I—76 ; Grade II—15 : Grade III—12 ; Grade IV—17.

In addition 36 samples were submitted to the Laboratory to determine plumbo-solvency, All these samples were reported as satisfactory.

AVETON GIFFORD. Moorland Supply. There are four standpipes in the village.

BIGBURY and ST. ANN'S CHAPEL. Moorland Supply.

BIGBURY-ON-SEA. Moorland Supply.

BLACKAWTON. The village is supplied from a local spring and a number of houses have their own private wells. The Public Supply is most unsatisfactory and the wells are open to suspicion. The Moorland supply will be available in the very near future.

BUCKLAND-TOUT-SAINTS including GOVETON and LEDSTONE. Moorland Supply.

EAST and WEST CHARLETON. Water is derived from local springs which are unsatisfactory in quantity. Schemes are under consideration to supply these villages from the Moorland Supply.

CHIVELSTONE—EAST PRAWLE. This village is supplied by the Moorland Scheme. A tender has been accepted to lay a 3in. main through the village and also to build a reservoir and lay a 3in. main to houses on the outskirts which are at present being supplied by a local spring. This spring is unsatisfactory in quality and quantity.

CHURCHSTOW. Moorland Supply.

EAST ALLINGTON. Supplied from local springs which are pumped to high level reservoirs. The capacity of the reservoirs has been increased in order to give more storage. The springs are satisfactory in quality and quantity.

EAST PORTLEMOUTH. This village is supplied by a private supply which is most unsatisfactory. It is hoped that the contract to lay water from the Moorland supply to East Portlemouth will be commenced at an early date.

KELLATON. The Moorland supply has now been made available to this village.

KINGSTON. Moorland Supply.

MALBOROUGH. Moorland Supply.

MODBURY. Moorland Supply. There are eight standpipes in the town.

RINGMORE and CHALLABOROUGH. Moorland Supply.

SHERFORD. Moorland Supply. There are three standpipes in the village.

SLAPTON. Moorland Supply. The small diameter main in the village has now been replaced by a new 3in. main.

SOUTH HUISH, GALMPTON, INNER AND OUTER HOPE are supplied from private sources, the water being obtained from shallow springs. Bacteriological examinations show these supplies to be unsatisfactory, and the owners have been requested to chlorinate and are doing so.

SOUTH MILTON. Moorland Supply.

SOUTH POOL. Moorland Supply.

STOKE FLEMING. This village is supplied from a well, the water being pumped to a reservoir by means of petrol and electric pumps.

Arrangements are being made to dispense with the local supply and link up the existing main with the Moorland Supply which is approaching the village.

Stokenham, Chillington and Torcross. Moorland Supply.

Strete. This Village is supplied from three local wells which are inadequate to meet the demands and carting of water has been necessary during the summer months. The Moorland Supply should be available before next summer.

During the year, 69 houses have been connected to the Public Water Supply, namely : Aveton Gifford, 1 ; Bigbury, 2 ; Buckland-tout-Saints, 1 ; Chivelstone, 4 ; Churchstow, 3 ; Loddiswell, 4 ; Malborough, 1 ; Modbury, 9 ; Ringmore, 4 ; Sherford, 4 ; South Pool, 16 ; Stokenham, 7 ; Slapton, 6 ; South Milton, 2 ; Thurlestone, 1, and West Alvington 4.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Blackawton. The work of extending the sewers and constructing a sewage disposal works is nearing completion.

East Allington. Progress is being made in the construction of sewers and sewage disposal works for this village.

Torcross. Damage was done to the sea outfall at Torcross owing to heavy gales, and it was necessary to replace approximately 12 yards of 8in. cast-iron piping ; protection being afforded to the cast-iron piping by reinforced concrete.

HOUSING.

PRE-WAR HOUSING. The Council erected 69 dwellings prior to the war in 1939, and their distribution is as follows :—

Parish.	Name of Site.	Number of Houses.
Bigbury	Park Cottages	4
Blackawton	Park Lane	4
Kingston	Park View Terrace	6
Loddiswell	New Road	6
Malborough	Moor View	4
Modbury	Traine Villas	6
South Huish (Hope Cove)	Meadow View	4
South Milton	Middle Park	6
Stoke Fleming	Venn	2
Stoke Fleming	Bailey's Meadow	2
Stokenham	Holbrook Terrace	6
Stokenham (Beesands)	Council Houses	6
Strete	Severn's Cottages	4
Thurlestone	Sea View Terrace	9
	Total Houses	69

POST-WAR HOUSING. Since the war the Council have erected the following new dwellings :—

Parish.	Name of Site.	Number of Houses.	
Aveton Gifford	Icy Park	6	Temporary
Aveton Gifford	Icy Park	12	
Blackawton	Main Street	2	
Buckland-tout-Saints	Goveton	4	
Chivelstone (East Prawle)	Higher Park	6	
Churchstow	Woodlands	8	
Kingston	Yellands Park	12	
Loddiswell	Ashwood Park	14	
Loddiswell	Oakwood Park	4	temporary
Malborough	Collaton Way	2	
Malborough	Jubilee Road	18	
Malborough	Moorside	3	temporary
Modbury	Champernowne	26	
Modbury	Traine Villas	6	
Ringmore	Crossways	8	
Sherford	Sherford Down	6	
South Milton	Sunnyside	8	
South Pool	Creek End	6	
Stokenham (Chillington)	Meadowside	8	
Stokenham (Chillington)	Meadowside	6	temporary
Thurlestone	Island View	7	temporary
Thurlestone	Parkfield	10	
Thurlestone (W. Buckland)	Valleyside	6	
West Alvington	Townsend Road	8	
West Alvington	Townsend Road	4	Temporary
	Total	200	

HOUSING, 1952. The following number of houses are under construction or contracts let, a certain number have been completed and occupied :—

Parish.	Name of Site.	Number of Houses.
Churchstow	Woodlands	4
East Allington	——	8
East Portlemouth	——	8
Loddiswell	Ashwood Park	16
Malborough	Collaton Way	8
Modbury	Champernowne	4
	Total	48

Further contracts for dwellings are in course of preparation:

Bigbury (St. Ann's Chapel)	14
Blackawton	9
Chivelstone (E. Prawle)	8
Kingston	10
Modbury	4
Stokefleming or South Huish (Galmpton)	7
Stokenham (Kellaton)	4
Stokenham (Kernborough)	4
Strete	10
West Alvington	11
Total	81

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

COMPLAINTS.—47 complaints were received and dealt with.

SHOPS AND FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.—83 inspections have been made to shops, ice-cream vendors, bakehouses and butchers' shops.

DISINFECTIONS.—11 premises were disinfected due to the occurrence of infectious disease and a further three premises were found to be verminous and were fumigated.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.—34 inspections were made of various sites in the area. During the year 24 applications were received, 16 applications related to individual caravans, eight applications related to land used for camping purposes. All applications were granted.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.

ICE-CREAM.—A further six premises were registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale or manufacture for the purpose of sale of ice-cream during the year, making the total number of premises registered for this purpose 29. Thirty-seven samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. The results showed that all the samples were satisfactory.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOODS.—The District's fresh meat supply is allocated from the Dartmouth Abattoir. Inspection is carried out by that Authority's Sanitary Inspector, but he is relieved by this Council's Inspector for leave periods and conferences, etc. Shops in the District are visited regularly and unsound food condemned during the year was as follows:

Meat (Home killed), 77-lbs.
Meat (Imported and Canned), 105-lbs.
Other Foods, 129-lbs.
Total, 2-cwt. 3-qrs. 3-lbs.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises. (1)	No. in Register. (3)	Inspect'ns. (4)	Number of Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers Prosec'ed. (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	5		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	21		
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—		
TOTAL	38	26		

RODENT CONTROL.

One full-time rodent operator is employed by the Council. Particular attention is paid to the Council's refuse tips and sewage works. A free service is provided for private properties.

There were 241 complaints received during the year and work done was as follows :

Premises inspected—977.

No. of premises treated—622.

No. of Rats picked up—1258.

Estimated number of Rats destroyed according to poison take—6,500.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

The Council are at present using five tips throughout the district. These tips are inspected regularly and during summer months are treated for the control of flies. An additional site, at Molescombe Quarry, has been purchased jointly by the Kingsbridge Urban and Rural District Councils. This tip will be brought into use as soon as various site works have been completed.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. C. SMALES,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1952.